

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND CHAIR HILDA SOLIS**

September 20, 2016

PARTNERING WITH CONSERVATION CORPS SERVING LOS ANGELES COUNTY

A long-standing partnership between the Los Angeles County (County) Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Conservation Corps entities has been a significant means for providing at-risk young adults and school-aged youth with opportunities for success through job skills training, education, and work experience with an emphasis on conservation and service projects. Through these programs, youth and young adults are given the opportunity to improve their circumstances, give back to their community and prepare for post-secondary education and living wage jobs.

Since 2007, the Board of Supervisors (Board) has unanimously approved two consecutive non-exclusive, as-needed service agreements with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) and the San Gabriel Conservation Corps (SGVCC) to perform various services, including landscaping, maintenance projects, horticultural services, water conservation projects, energy conservation projects, trail work, habitat restoration, and other services, often with educational benefits, as required by DPR.

Both entities have a track-record of providing life-changing experiences for their members. LACC operates seven sites throughout the County: South Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, Northeast Los Angeles, Northeast San Fernando Valley, Compton, the SEA Lab in Redondo Beach, and their Administrative Offices in Downtown Los Angeles. In the past year, 956 teens and young adults were provided with over 300,000 hours of work experience and on-the-job training activities such as planting over 31,000 trees,

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removing more than 692,000 square feet of graffiti, building over 31,500 linear feet of trail, restoring 18 acres of habitat, reducing 30 acres of fire fuel, installing 4,000 feet of irrigation, and recycling over 950 tons of beverage containers.

SGVCC operates sites in El Monte and Pomona. In the last two years, SGVCC graduated 80 members from the Youth Build Charter School. This past year, SGVCC members removed over 800 diseased or dead trees, planted 1,500 trees and 7,000 plants at Marshall Canyon, Whittier Narrows, Peck Park, and other County parks.

There is an opportunity to further expand the work that DPR is engaging with LACC and SGVCC to the other Conservation Corp entities operating within the County. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) operates three sites in the County: Norwalk, South Los Angeles and Pomona. The CCC is currently serving more than 3,000 young people, which has resulted in 70,400 hours invested in water conservation, energy, trail, habitat restoration, and fire hazard reduction projects.

In addition, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) operates program sites in East Long Beach, Signal Hill, and the Bixby Knolls area of Long Beach. CCLB has provided over 3,000 youths between 14 and 17 years old with paid work experience while they were on vacation from school, and 5,000 middle school students with after-school tutoring and enrichment activities. CCLB has also trained over 2,800 18- to 25-year-old young adults for living wage jobs.

The Conservation Corps' projects have yielded exponential benefits to at-risk youth and communities, while also allowing DPR to stretch limited resources. Aside from County parks, other County departments and County-related agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, may also benefit from the services provided by the Conservation Corps and these agencies should be encouraged to engage at-risk youth from local communities in public improvement projects. Therefore, DPR should enter into contracts that would provide authority to engage in annual work orders of up to \$2,000,000 with each of the four Conservation Corps for an initial five-year term plus three one-year extensions.

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cost, as Conservation Corps services would be funded by available funding identified for specific projects in DPR's Operating Budget, or by Special Funds. Funding for services that benefit other County departments and County-related agencies would be provided to DPR as part of a funding agreement.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Find the approval of the non-exclusive, as-needed service agreements categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Agreements are within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(h) and 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(j) and 4(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Agreements provide for maintenance of existing landscaping and installation of new landscaping. The proposed Agreements include no expansion of an existing use, and the proposed Agreements will not involve the removal of healthy, mature and scenic trees. Additionally, the projects are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Agreements' records;
2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to execute non-exclusive, as-needed service agreements with the Los Angeles, California, San Gabriel, and Long Beach Conservation Corps (collectively, the "Corps"), upon approval as to form by County Counsel, to perform landscaping, maintenance projects, horticultural services, water conservation projects, energy conservation projects, trail work, habitat restoration, and other services, often with educational and job-training benefits, utilizing at-risk youth from ages 18 to 25 years old, for an initial five-year term plus three one-year extensions to be exercised at the

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Director's discretion, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 annually, with each Corp; and

3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to extend access to the as-needed services with the Corps to other County departments and County-related agencies, including but not limited to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, by executing Memorandum of Understanding agreements or Department Service Orders that specify the scope of work and funding for each project.

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